Non-availability of essential medicines in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi

1616. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage and often non-availability of even common medicines in the wards as also in the emergency of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that senior doctors do not care to visit even serious patients; and

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered into the matter and what is the outcome thereof and if not, whether Government propose to assess the gravity of the situation so as to save precious lives of the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) There is no general shortage of medicines in the wards of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi except medicines, which are not readily available in the market.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Action on the complaint against M/s. Kiran Gas Service, Khan Market, New Delhi

1617. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that L.P.G. refills are generally supplied very late by M/s. Kiran Gas Service, Khan Market, New Delhi and the consumers have to wait for their refills for days and weeks together;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of complaints received against the above distributor on this account since January, 1988 till date;

(d) whether any action has been taken on each of such complaints;

(e) whether it is a fact that I.O.C. instead of taking any action against the distributor, advises the consumers to change the distributorship; and

(f) if so, what effective action Government propose to take to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Complaints that the refills are generally supplied very late by this dealer have not been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the period from 1st January, 1988 to 28th February, 1990, one complaint regarding delay in refill supplies was received against this distributor.

(d) This complaint was investigated and consumer's grievance redressed.

(e) No, Sir. However, the consumer has the freedom to change the distributor if not satisfied with the services.

(f) If refills are not supplied according to the bookings made, action is taken under the marketing discipline guidelines.

Short supply of LP Gas in Goa

1618. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that L.P. Gas is in short supply in Goa as a result of which the consumers are put to hardship;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this shortage will be over?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Some shortage in the supply of LPG refills was reported in Goa during the months of January-February, 1990 on account of the

overall shortfall in the bulk availability of LPG, apart from operational and transportation problems. With the measures already taken, the situation has since normalised. The situation is being monitored to ensure regular supplies to the consumers.

Shortage of cooking gas in Indore

1619. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumers of Indore are facing acute shortage of cooking gas due to less number of gas agencies leading to bottlenecks in the distribution system;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken in this regard;

(c) whether there are plans to increase the gas supply and also the number of gas agencies; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the position in regard to the three agencies for which applications were invited long back and which were meant to be awarded to the members of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. Presently refill supplies to Indore market are reported to be normal;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Yes, Sir. Three additional distributorships have been planned for Indore city which are at various stages of processing;

(d) The status of the three distributorships is as follows:

Category	Oil Cos	Status
(i) SC	IOC	To be advertised
(ii) PH	BPC	Applications forwarded to OSB (W)
(iii) OP	HPC	LOI issued on 27-9-1989.

NOTE:

SC—Scheduled Caste
PH—Physically Handicapped
OP—open

Transportation of Natural Gas from Western Fields to Southern Region

1620. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gas Authority of India Limited has been asked to examine the feasibility of transportation of natural gas from western fields to the Southern Region; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Committee is being appointed to examine the various issues pertaining to the establishment of a Southern Gas Grid.

Declaring Punjab as Industrially Backward State

1621. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: